



## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

January 14, 2005

Dear Stakeholder:

California's high-speed train project is nearing the important step of identifying preferred route alignment alternatives along the 700-mile long system for the preparation of the Final Program EIR/EIS.

At the September Authority meeting, board members indicated their tentative approval, pending further review of public and agency comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS, of staff's recommendations for identifying preferred alternatives along the Bakersfield – Los Angeles, Los Angeles – San Diego (via Orange County), and the Northern Mountain Pass corridors. The Board tentatively approved the following:

- For Los Angeles to Bakersfield, the alignment through the Antelope Valley with a station in Palmdale
- For Los Angeles to San Diego via Orange County, the alignment to Irvine
- Using existing transportation networks to connect LAX with the proposed high-speed train system
- For the northern mountain crossing from the Central Valley to the Bay Area, identifying a broad corridor for further study before selecting a preferred alignment alternative

During the November Board meeting, Authority staff presented recommendations for the four route alignments within California's proposed high-speed train system. The staff recommendations were based on technical studies, and input from public agencies and the general public. The staff presented, for board consideration, its recommendations identifying the preferred alignments on the following corridors:

- Sacramento to Bakersfield
- San Francisco to San Jose
- Oakland to San Jose
- Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire

The board gave advisory approval on the majority of routes discussed and directed staff to give further attention to the alignment between Fresno and Bakersfield.

We invite you to review the staff's recommendations on preferred alignment alternatives and to attend the Authority's January 26th meeting where the board is expected to take action on the staff recommendations identifying the preferred alternatives for the Final EIR/EIS.

For additional information on the staff's recommendations on preferred alignment alternatives visit the CHSRA website at [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov).

At the December 15, 2004 California High-Speed Rail Authority Board meeting the Authority received the third and final installment of the Implementation Plan presentation. The Authority will be discussing the issues presented in the three presentations at an all-day workshop on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in San Diego; this workshop will be part of the regularly scheduled Authority meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Morshed".

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director